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PREPARATIONS FOR SHIPMENT OF NEW HARVEST -- Minsk, Sovetskaya Belorussiya, 1 Jul 53

Preparations are being made in southern ports and docking areas for shipment of grain from the new harvest. In Krasnoarmeysk (Stalingradskaia Oblast), Ufa, Kherson, Gomel', Baku, Krasnovodsk, Aral'sk, Gor'kiy, Kuybyshev, Ul'yanovsk, and other cities along navigable waters, a competition has begun to complete the grain transportation plan ahead of schedule.

The Ministry of Ocean and Inland Shipping has assigned cargo vessels to the operation -- 10 per cent of them heavy capacity barges suitable for propulsion by pushing.

In the river ports, warehouses have been prepared and the amount of mechanical equipment for cargo working has been increased.

On 30 June, the Ministry of Ocean and Inland Shipping issued instructions to vessels and ports on the order of shipment for grains from the new harvest. Bread grains are to be dispatched first. The plan calls for improvement in rail and water transshipment points in the region.

INLAND TOWING ACTIVITIES -- Moscow, Moskovskaya Pravda, 1 Jul 53

A massive timber float has gotten under way in Lake Baykal. Tugs have towed the first rafts from the ports of Barguzin and Baykal to the tributaries of the Angara River.

In the past, the largest timber tows were of 6,000 cubic meters. Today, the steam tug Kommunist, from the port of Barguzin, took in tow a raft of more than 12,000 cubic meters. This was the first dispatch of a raft of such size on Lake Baykal.

Leningradskaya Pravda, 1 Jul 53

The crew of the tug Chudovo (Northwest Steamship Company), under the command of Captain I. Vasil'yev, has carried out the first voyage by the barge pushing method in the difficult waters of Lake Il'men'.

The seven vessels in the tow were arranged in a diamond shape -- two in the first row, three in the second, and two in the third. All were fastened up tight on their hawsers [gunwale-to-gunwale]. The weight dispatched in the tow, bound for Novgorod, was 1,200 tons more than the tow ordinarily prescribed for tugs of this type, and the speed was 30 per cent above that obtained by usual towing methods.

Since the barge pushing method was introduced in the Northwest Steamship Company, tens of thousands of freight have been hauled by this method.

Leningradskaya Pravda, 5 Jul 53

The conveying of tow of considerably increased weight is being carried out by the Northwest Steamship Company.

It is reported from Petrokrepost' that the S/S Smol'nyy towed a raft weighing 3,530 tons, as compared to a norm of 1,600 tons. The tug Pioneer has increased daily raft load along the Svir' River three times above established levels.

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The tugs of the Northwest Steamship Company have already conveyed 100 heavyweight tows and rafts since the beginning of the navigation season, carrying 100,000 tons of diverse freight above the plan.

TRAFFIC IN THE RIVER PORT AT MOSCOW -- Moscow, Izvestiya, 1 Jul 53

The M/S *Estoniya* arrived in Moscow on 30 June carrying 1,500 tons of wheat, and the *Chernigov* from Stalingrad unloaded 1,612 tons of flour.

Diesel vessels from Yaroslavl' docked with motor vehicle tires for the Moscow Motor Vehicle Plant imeni Stalin.

Vessels sailed from Moscow to the Volga carrying nearly 200 tons of various textiles. The cargo-passenger ship *Kaganovich* sailed with Moscow products destined for Gor'kyy.

RIVER CHANNEL IMPROVEMENTS IN THE NORTHWEST -- Leningradskaya Pravda, 5 Jul 53

In the Neva, Volkhov, and Svir' rivers and in Lake Ladoga the fairway is being deepened, the approaches to berths and piers are being cleared, and the channel is being widened.

The crews of the dredges Severo-zapadnyy 9 and Severo-zapadnyy 29 have already carried out the plan for the first half of July. This success was made possible by the organization of dredging work on an hourly schedule, new methods for shifting anchor, and reduction of time spent standing idle. Since the beginning of the navigation season, over 175,000 cubic meters of river bottom have been dredged above the plan.

IMPROVEMENTS IN DNEPR NAVIGATIONAL AIDS -- Petrozavodsk, Leninskoye Znamya, 7 Jul 53

An automatic electric system of navigational aids has been installed along the Dnepr River in the Cherkassy-Kremenchug and the Kremenchug-Dnepropetrovsk regions. In difficult places along the river, navigational signals, with the aid of an automatic clock mechanism, turn on at the approach of darkness and switch off at dawn. Depth indicators with flashing lights have also been installed in these areas.

A similar signal system has been established in the stretch of river from Kakhovka to Kherson.

SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED FOR M/S UKRAINA -- Kishinev, Sovetskaya Moldaviya, 3 Jul 53

The M/S *Ukraina* is making a regular run on the Dnepr River from Vadu-luy-Vody to Bendery. The ship departs from Vadu-luy-Vody on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 1000 hours. Departure from Bendery is on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays at 0900 hours.

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